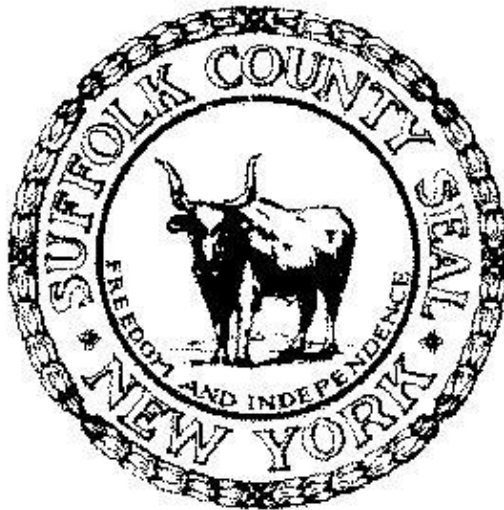


# **INDICES OF YOUTH NEEDS IN SUFFOLK COUNTY**

**STEVE BELLONE  
SUFFOLK COUNTY EXECUTIVE**



**2013**

**OFFICE OF THE COUNTY EXECUTIVE  
SUFFOLK COUNTY YOUTH BUREAU**

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May 21, 2013

Dear Friends,

The **Indices of Youth Needs in Suffolk County** is a resource tool prepared by the Suffolk County Youth Bureau to assist individuals and non-profit organizations who are seeking fund development opportunities for youth programs and services.

The report provides statistical information by County and State that can be utilized for grant and funding applications. This report includes data available for the period beginning 2010 and ending 2013.

This series of tables and website links is intended to serve as a reference document with current data reflecting the level of youth needs and related information on youth for Suffolk County's ten townships, 166 communities and 71 school districts.

I want to personally thank John Paul Carroll, Thomas Williams, and Marcia Spector for their tireless commitment and work in preparing this report. On behalf of County Executive Steven Bellone and the Suffolk County Youth Bureau, we are grateful to them.

It is my hope that this report will prove to be a valuable resource to you and your organization in your work to meet the needs of Suffolk's youth.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'R. Pearson'.

Roderick A. Pearson  
Executive Director

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### *Author's Note*

Hello and welcome to the new Indices of Youth Needs. I hope you find this revised version useful and helpful for years to come. This document is a culmination of months finding credible, and easy to use data tools. The articles were carefully selected to bring the problems to life and show a human element that statistics alone simply cannot. The end result you see here would not have been made possible without my amazing support system at EOC of Suffolk, Inc.-SNAP Division.

In no particular order I would like to formally thank those who helped make this idea become reality.

Thanks to:

Marcia Spector, Division Director of SNAP, for the hours of provocative conversations we had helped shape my academic growth this year and challenged me to come up with some of the great new revisions.

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To the Youth Bureau, thanks for trusting me with this ambitious project and giving me the opportunity to contribute something so comprehensive to the field as a first year intern.

Diane Meiers, Sr. Program Assistant, thank you so much for making this document look as great as it does, your creative skills are second to none.

Last but not least I would also like to give thanks to my undergraduate mentor Jeffery Snarr and everyone at the Family Translational Research Group in NYU. Without my exceptional experience with all of you, I would have never become half the student that I am today. Thank you for taking me on and helping me grow as a researcher, and as a person as well.

John-Paul Carroll, B.A. Psychology  
Economic Opportunity Council of Suffolk, Inc. – SNAP Division  
Intern - SUNY Stony Brook School of Social Welfare  
May 2013

## *Census Data*

### **Five Myths About the 2010 Census and the U.S. Population**

By: William H. Frey

Every 10 years, we have to count people. At least that's what Article 1, Section 2 of the Constitution says. It doesn't sound too complicated. But it is. Who gets counted, and how, determines not only congressional representation but how funding is distributed for a slew of federal programs that affect all of us. As we prepare to stand and be counted in 2010 -- and the U.S. Census Bureau is [spending a lot of advertising money](#) to make sure that everyone is -- let's note a few misconceptions about our population and the efforts to tally us up.

#### **1. Immigration is the biggest force behind the nation's racial and ethnic diversity.**

If immigration stopped today, we would still see substantial gains in our minority populations for decades to come. Recent Census Bureau projections showed that under a "no further immigration" scenario, the minority share of our population would rise from about 35 percent today to 42 percent in 2050. The preschool (under age 5 ) population would become minority white. The greater minority presence would arise from higher natural-increase rates for minorities than for the aging white population. This momentum is already in place: Since 2000, natural population increase accounted for 62 percent of the growth of Hispanics, the country's largest minority group, with immigration responsible for the rest.

Already, the District and four states (Hawaii, New Mexico, California and Texas) are minority white, and in six more, whites are less than 60 percent of the population. Minorities now make up more than 30 percent of the residents in half of the nation's congressional districts, compared with a quarter in 1992.

The census will tell us more about the dispersal of Hispanics and other groups to traditional white enclaves -- suburbs and the country's midsection. A majority of all Hispanic, black and Asian residents of major metro areas now live in the suburbs. And since 2000, according to recent estimates, the fastest Hispanic growth occurred in South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee and Arkansas.

Color lines within our population are blurring in a different way, too, with people who identify with more than one race. The number of mixed-race married couples more than doubled since 1990, and they make up nearly 8 percent of all marriages.

#### **2. The country is getting uniformly older.**

As a baby boomer, I am part of a demographic mob. As we age over the next 20 years, the nation as a whole will see a surge in senior citizens. But different parts of the country will be aging at different rates, largely because selective "younging" is going on. This is evident from census estimates showing that during the first nine years of this decade, 25 states -- mostly in the Northeast, Midwest and Great Plains -- and the District exhibited absolute declines in their child populations, while 25 others, led by Nevada and Arizona, showed gains.

### *Census Data*

This variation in where families and children live is poised to shape a young-old regional divide that could intensify over time. Census projections for 2020, made earlier this decade, showed median ages over 40 in Maine, West Virginia and Pennsylvania, compared with below 36 in Utah, Texas, Georgia and California.

#### **3. Big states will keep getting bigger -- especially in Congress.**

For much of the postwar period, the Sunbelt megastates of California, Florida and Texas just kept growing: They led all other states in adding congressional seats based on censuses since World War II. But the economic turbulence of this past decade will affect their political fortunes. Florida was one of the nation's growth leaders for the first half of the decade and was poised to gain as many as three congressional seats after the 2010 Census, tying or overtaking New York's congressional delegation. But the mortgage meltdown led to an unprecedented exodus from the state in the past two years. Florida's likely gain of one seat will be its smallest addition since the 1940 Census.

California is not positioned to gain any seats for the first time since statehood in 1850. Despite its status as an immigration magnet, the Golden State lost large numbers of people fleeing high housing costs during the bubble years. California might have even lost a seat had that bubble not burst.

Of the three Sunbelt behemoths, Texas will take the biggest prize, probably four congressional seats -- its largest increase since the 1880 Census. It was largely immune from the housing crisis late in the decade, while it gained Katrina-driven migrants from Louisiana.

#### **4. The census is the main source of information about our population.**

Not as much as before. Unlike previous censuses, the 2010 count will provide only bare-bones information that does little more than fulfill its constitutional mandate. The questions will include the age, sex, race, Hispanic origin and household relationship status of each individual, and the size and homeownership status of each household.

What happened to all the rich data on poverty, income, ancestry, immigration, marital status and some 30 other categories we have come to expect from the census? Those "long form" questions have been given to a sample of census respondents in every count going back to 1940 -- but they won't be handed out this year. The queries have been diverted to the Census Bureau's American Community Survey.

In 2005, the bureau began administering the ACS to 3 million households each year to elicit the same kind of information that was previously available only every 10 years. This large and sophisticated survey has already provided important and timely insights on changing poverty, immigration and migration patterns in this economic roller coaster of a decade.

#### **5. New technology gives us much more demographic data than the census can.**

### *Census Data*

Not true. Technological developments and data collected via the Internet do give us new ways of looking at the population, and complex surveys and estimates conducted by the Census Bureau and other organizations allow us to monitor change over the decade -- but there is no substitute for counting everyone. Aside from the census's constitutional mandate to provide the basis for congressional apportionment, a national headcount also allows us to know how many people live in the nation's cities, suburbs and neighborhoods and to break them down according to race, age and gender.

There are plenty of examples of a decennial census surprising the experts. The 2000 Census, for instance, discovered sharp population surges in many old, large cities. This was unanticipated for Chicago, which had experienced decades of decline. And the spread of the nation's Hispanic population into new states such as North Carolina far exceeded expectations.

Many government and private surveys, including the ACS, rely on the decennial census to make sure their work accurately reflects the population as a whole.

This census will also tell us more about small but growing groups, such as [same-sex married partners](#) and multiracial populations, whose presence and interests can change laws and public policies.

The Census Bureau's ad campaign urges Americans to answer "10 Questions in 10 Minutes" -- and those are still 10 very important questions, whose responses will guide us for the next 10 years.

From [brookings.edu](http://www.brookings.edu)

(<http://www.brookings.edu/research/opinions/2010/02/14-census-frey>)

## Census Data

Census data is now easier than ever to access. The census website offers a free interactive map that allows users to compare communities and townships across an array of different categories. The data can be accessed in two simple ways. There is an interactive map feature, which allows users to select the region they wish to obtain data from across a map of the U.S. by clicking on the geographical location that can be accessed here:

<http://www.census.gov/2010census/popmap/>.

For those users more comfortable scrolling through text and using a more direct approach without the use of a map, the text version of all of this data can be accessed here:

<http://www.census.gov/2010census/popmap/ipmtext.php>.

Type	Municipal Name	2010 Youth Population (under 21)
County	Suffolk	416,360
Village	Amityville	1,953
Village	Asharoken	134
Town	Babylon	45,851
Village	Babylon	3,127
Village	Belle Terre	208
Village	Bellport	405
Village	Brightwaters	873
Town	Brookhaven	130,091
Village	Dering Harbor	-
Town	East Hampton	4,567
Village	East Hampton	176
Village	Greenport	486
Village	Head of the Harbor	424
Village	Huntington Bay	327
Town	Huntington	52,681
Village	Islandia	790
Town	Islip	95,354
Village	Lake Grove	3,117
Village	Lindenhurst	7,279



Continued from previous page

**Census Data**

Village	Lloyd Harbor	1,176
Village	Nissequogue	550
Village	North Haven	211
Village	Northport	1,911
Village	Ocean Beach	11
Village	Old Field	226
Village	Patchogue	2,831
IR	Poospatuck Reservation	101
Village	Poquott	258
Village	Port Jefferson	1,809
Village	Quogue	184
Town	Riverhead	7,904
Village	Sag Harbor	423
Village	Sagaponack	51
Village	Saltaire	7
Town	Shelter Island	436
IR	Shinnecock Reservation	205
Village	Shoreham	149
Town	Smithtown	32,017
Town	Southampton	12,304
Village	Southampton	558
Town	Southold	4,249
Village	Village of the Branch	534
Village	West Hampton Dunes	9
Village	Westhampton Beach	403
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>416,360</b>

(Source: New York State Office of Children and Family Services (OCFS))

## *Teen Pregnancy*

### **Teen Pregnancy in Suffolk is a Growing Problem**

*County leads the state in teen pregnancies*

By [Long Island Press](#) on January 7th, 2010

By *Lindsay Christ*

Kelly knew something was wrong when she felt like she was about to get her period but it never came. The 18-year-old—a high-school dropout from central Suffolk—told her mother, who bought her a pregnancy test.

It came back positive.

That was in 2005. Now a 22-year-old mother of a toddler, Kelly (who asked that her last name not be used) recalls the day vividly.

“When I found out I was pregnant, I cried. I thought, ‘My life is over,’” says the petite blonde, during a recent lunch break from her job answering phones for a nonprofit that helps other teenage mothers in Suffolk cope with their new realities. She’s wearing an oversized T-shirt, baggy pants and sipping a 7-Eleven coffee.

“But I dealt with it,” she adds after a moment’s pause. “I had to.”

Kelly is not alone.

Following a 45-percent decline from 1991 to 2005, teenage births have been on the rise nationally since 2006, says the latest data from the National Center for Health Statistics. And according to the most recent figures from the New York State (NYS) Department of Health, Suffolk County had the highest number of teen pregnancies among females between the ages of 15 and 19 in the state in 2007—2,012 out of 39,910, and a 3-percent jump from the previous year—among counties outside New York City. That’s nothing to shake a rattle at, since the state ranks third in the nation for highest incidents of teen pregnancy behind California and Texas, according to a 2004 study by the Guttmacher Institute, a nonprofit reproductive health research group.

With the increased rates of babies being born to adolescents, say health officials, come a host of consequences, including: lost educational, social and vocational opportunities, perpetual poverty and dependence on public income maintenance and health programs for both parents and children. Nationally, teen childbearing cost federal, state and local taxpayers at least \$9.1 billion in 2004, according to a 2006 report published by the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy (NCPTUP). In NYS, that figure was \$421 million in 2004.

## *Teen Pregnancy*

Locally, the trend has caught the attention of the Suffolk County Legislature, which recently formed a Teen Pregnancy Task Force that will soon begin holding public hearings to examine the problem and issue a report proposing methods to decrease the teenage pregnancy rate. The hope is for an immediate and long-term plan to reverse the trend.

Though the exact price tag for Suffolk taxpayers is tough to quantify, explains Ginny Suhr, chief aide to Suffolk County Legis. and Deputy Presiding Officer Vivian Vilorio-Fisher (D-East Setauket), sponsor of the legislation creating the task force, teen pregnancies are “a huge problem economically in the state and in the county.”

Suhr cites health care and child welfare costs, as well as lost tax revenue. But besides its high financial burden, Suhr puts the issue’s human toll at the top of the list for reasons to act.

“The importance of addressing the issue is the cost in their lives to their quality of life, these young people,” she says. “It is not glamorous. It is hard, hard, hard.”

### **OOPS**

Experts attribute the increasing numbers of adolescents having babies to a myriad of factors, from a lack of proper sexual health education—either from schools or gun-shy parents—to teens becoming sexually active at younger ages. Other contributors could include the glamorization of teenage motherhood, say experts, through films such as the Academy Award-winning *Juno* or television shows like MTV’s *Teen Mom* and the near-constant media attention given to teenage celebrity moms like Britney Spears’ 18-year-old sister, Jamie Lynn. The culture and ethnic heritage of a community also plays a role, as does its socioeconomic situation.

Marcia Spector, executive director of SNAP, formerly known as the Suffolk Network on Adolescent Pregnancy, an adolescent pregnancy prevention and services coordination agency based on the grounds of Southside Hospital in Bay Shore, says Suffolk’s spike in teen pregnancies is largely a product of its recent population shift.

“A large reason there is a rise in teen pregnancy is because the demographics in Suffolk are changing,” she explains. “There has been a significant increase in the Hispanic population, and Latinas have the highest teen pregnancy rate in the country.”

Thousands of Hispanics have settled in Suffolk over the past decade. U.S. Census figures show the number of Hispanics almost doubled from 7.1 percent of the population in 1990 to 13.7 percent in 2008.

And, as Madonna sang in her 1986 hit single “Papa Don’t Preach”—which received harsh criticism at the time for its frank depiction of teenage pregnancy—pregnant Hispanic teen moms also predominantly choose to “keep” their babies.

### *Teen Pregnancy*

According to Nancy DiMonte, associate adjunct professor of sociology at Farmingdale State College, who teaches, among other classes, Sociology of the Family, many minority teen mothers come from big families where there is more of an emphasis on family life as opposed to Caucasian parents, who tend to have fewer children.

The numbers back this up. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) reported this year that Latinas between the ages of 15 and 19 had 81.7 pregnancies per 1,000 girls, while white teens had 25.9 pregnancies per 1,000. The birth rate discrepancy between these two groups is similarly skewed: 83 and 27 per 1,000, respectively, according to the latest statistics. The NCPTUP, based in Washington, D.C., reports that Latinas have the highest rates of teen pregnancy and childbearing of any racial or ethnic group in the country, and 53 percent of Latinas get pregnant before the age of 20. Spector says factors for this include, “poverty, lack of access to services and a high dropout rate for Latina girls.”

(Taken from Long Island Press.com)

<http://archive.longislandpress.com/2010/01/07/teen-pregnancy-in-suffolk-is-a-growing-problem/>

## Teen Pregnancy

State County		Pregnancy Rates 2010
New York State		50.2
		Pregnancy Rates 2009-2011
Suffolk County		23.5
Zip Code/Town		Pregnancy Rates above Suffolk County average
11784 - Selden		24.4
11749 - Islandia		25.2
11746 - Huntington Station		26.2
11946 - Hampton Bays		27.1
11978 - Westhampton Beach		28.4
11948 - Laurel		29.4
11955 - Moriches		29.8
11727 - Coram		31.3
11772 - Patchogue		33.0
11967 - Shirley		33.1
11953 - Middle Island		33.2
11944 - Greenport		33.9
11763 - Medford		37.6
11701 - Amityville		43.0
11706 - Bay Shore		44.0
11901 - Riverhead		47.6
11951 - Mastic Beach		48.8
11726 - Copiague		50.6
11950 - Mastic		52.1
11713 - Bellport		62.4
11722 - Central Islip		64.8
11717 - Brentwood		73.0
11798 - Wyandanch		74.4

Source: EOC- SNAP Division

(Continued on next page)

## Teen Pregnancy

State County		Birth Rates 2010
New York State		22.6
		<b>Birth Rates 2009-2011</b>
Suffolk County		14.1
Zip Code/Town		Birth Rates above Suffolk County average
11727 - Coram		15.8
11749 - Islandia		16.8
11746 - Huntington Station		18.0
11967 - Shirley		18.1
11944 - Greenport		18.2
11978 - Westhampton Beach		18.9
11946 - Hampton Bays		19.9
11772 - Patchogue		20.7
11953 - Middle Island		21.3
11763 - Medford		21.8
11701 - Amityville		27.9
11951 - Mastic Beach		28.1
11948 - Laurel		29.4
11706 - Bay Shore		30.0
11950 - Mastic		31.8
11901 - Riverhead		34.4
11726 - Copiague		36.0
11713 - Bellport		37.6
11722 - Central Islip		47.3
11798 - Wyandanch		49.4
11717 - Brentwood		56.8

Source: EOC- SNAP Division

### Teen Pregnancy

Zip	Teen Rate per 1000	
Code	Birth	Pregnancy
11701	27.9	43
11703	8.4	21.1
11704	11.7	18.3
11705	6.8	15.8
11706	30	44
11713	37.6	62.4
11715	8.2	16.4
11716	6	17.1
11717	56.8	73
11718	0	5.4
11719	5.8	14.6
11720	9.3	18.5
11721	1.5	7.6
11722	47.3	64.8
11724	0	2.5
11725	1.7	7.4
11726	36	50.6
11727	15.8	31.3
11729	7.8	18.9
11730	4.3	10.2
11731	6.3	10
11733	0.9	4.9
11735	3.6	11.7
11738	8.1	15.2
11740	1	5.1
11741	4.4	8.4
11742	4.8	11.7
11743	7	12.6
11746	18	26.2

11747	1.4	6.7
11749	16.8	25.2
11751	7.1	13
11752	6.1	12.3
11754	3.6	7.1
11755	3.1	14.8
11757	8.2	15.2
11763	21.8	37.6
11764	0.7	4.3
11766	0.6	7.3
11767	1.9	6.3
11768	2.2	5.2
11769	0.8	6.8
11772	20.7	33
11776	12	20.9
11777	5.4	9.6
11778	11.2	18.2
11779	9.6	18.8
11780	1.8	5.9
11782	2.8	9.9
11784	12.6	24.4
11786	7.4	14.7
11787	3.7	9.6
11788	8.6	14.6
11789	3.4	9.2
11790	0.5	4.2
11792	6.4	12.7
11795	2.6	8
11796	2.3	16.1
11798	49.4	74.4
11901	34.4	47.6

11933	6.6	15.9
11934	7	11.2
11935	5.2	10.3
11937	12	19.4
11939	.	.
11940	9.6	16
11941	7.5	22.4
11942	7	8.7
11944	18.2	33.9
11946	19.9	27.1
11948	29.4	29.4
11949	6.6	13.3
11950	31.8	52.1
11951	28.1	48.8
11952	6.4	12.8
11953	21.3	33.2
11954	12.3	14.7
11955	6	29.8
11957	.	.
11958	.	.
11961	9.2	20.6
11963	5.8	16.4
11964	0	0
11965	0	9.5
11967	18.1	33.1
11968	9.4	14.9
11971	5.7	9.6
11976	0	4.8
11977	2.9	5.8
11978	18.9	28.4
11980	6.2	12.5

Source: EOC- SNAP Division

## ***Gang Violence***

### **Gangs of Long Island: Rape. Drugs. Murder.**

By [Timothy Bolger](#) on July 23rd, 2009

*This is what it looks like.*

*A 13-year-old boy steels himself for a beating from about a dozen other boys—also teenagers, 13, 14, 15, maybe a little bit older—in a vacant lot behind an abandoned building. The group circles around the boy, and the circle closes around him. Then the blows begin. He's down after the first shot to the face and stays in a defensive position at the bottom of this pile. The pummeling continues for another five minutes. Five minutes. At the bottom of a pile. The sunlight blocked out by bodies. If there's any plus side, it's that there are so many boys involved in the attack that not all of the punches and kicks are landed. Enough are. One kick breaks his nose. Another breaks a rib. Then another rib. Five minutes. It seems to last a lifetime.*

*When his time is up, the circle backs away. The boy is covered in blood, he has suffered numerous injuries, but he can stand up. And when he does, he is congratulated. This is an initiation, a rite of passage called being “jumped in,” and he is now a member of the gang—almost.*

*Next he must show his allegiance by committing a crime—usually a violent act against a rival gang—and his willingness to wind up wounded, jailed or dead for his gang. As horrific as this sounds, at least he's not one of the girls, who are “sexed in,” or gang raped, where five or more male members of the gang have their way with her, one after the other, a process that takes a lot longer than a mere five minutes. No thought is given to getting the girl pregnant, or to what sexually transmitted diseases might be contracted, not to mention the injuries that will be suffered during the ritual.*

### **THE GANG'S ALL HERE**

A recent flare-up in front of Brentwood High School reportedly involved the Bloods and MS-13.

All it took was several teenagers flashing gang signs, as hundreds of high school students were finishing their summer-school classes, to initiate The Battle Royale involving more than a dozen people on a recent hot and sticky Tuesday morning. The shady side streets—the type where homeowners don't remove the graffiti on their fences because to do so invites gang retaliation—turned into all-out chaos that sucked in innocent bystanders as it twisted down the street like a pack of Tasmanian Devils, even after police arrived. Blood was splashed on the ground as three teens were stabbed and a fourth was bashed in the head with a blunt object. Once the dust settled, three suspected gang members—an 18-year-old and two 15-year-olds—were jailed on gang assault charges.



## *Gang Violence*

[This melee broke out](#) on July 14 in front of Brentwood High School, in the dead center of suburbia, and could not have provided a clearer reminder that the gangs of Long Island are still dedicated to painting the town red with each other's blood—and some innocent victims' too.

Some of the brawlers are believed to have been members of the **Bloods**, a predominantly African-American gang that is one of LI's largest, and **Mara Salvatrucha**, a Hispanic gang better known as **MS-13** and also one of the region's most prevalent—not to mention most violent. They have been at war here for so long that it may never be known what started it all (Suffolk police declined to comment on the case). But with newer, younger members recruited all the time, this may not have been retaliation, but just “rec,” as in recreation—kids with something to prove looking for a fight.

Still, when gang tensions spark a brawl in the mean streets of Brentwood, nobody bats an eye. It was [the discovery of 15-year-old Eber Lopez's badly decomposed body](#), which was buried in a wooded area near the Long Island Expressway in Farmingville, that raised eyebrows. The Guatemalan immigrant, who police do not believe was in a gang, worked at a Cutchogue deli and [was last seen at a christening](#) in his hometown of Greenport, where witnesses said he was abducted by gang members on June 6 before he was fatally shot. His body, found 11 days after his disappearance, was identified two days after the Brentwood fracas.

Most consider the North Fork synonymous with wineries, not gang-motivated murder. But the issue affects plenty more otherwise-sleepy suburbs nationwide. It requires a three-pronged approach that includes carefully coordinated law enforcement, reforming ex-gang members and educating both kids and their parents. From the feds down to the middle schools where gangs recruit new members, there is a call to arms to fight back against those who terrorize communities from the Town of Southold to the city line.

**Gang violence is on the rise across Long Island, admits at least one top elected official**, and law enforcement efforts to rein in its culture can best be described as a sub-war in itself, similar to the carnival game Whack-A-Mole. There's never a shortage of work. For those trapped in the culture's web—a net cast even for elementary schoolers—life can be a seemingly endless cycle of tragedy, despair and anguish, with an untold number of victims.

“You're starting to see an uptick in gang violence,” due in part to the recession, says Mark Lesko, the newly elected Brookhaven town supervisor and a former federal prosecutor who put away some of LI's most notorious gangsters using the **Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations** (RICO) laws that were originally used against the mob.

With the poor getting poorer thanks to increasing unemployment, more are turning to gangs, Lesko says. This, combined with the fact that some of LI's **OGs** (original gangsters) are starting to finish prison sentences earned after round-ups nearly a decade ago, is a dangerous mix, he adds. A new generation of gang bangers being led by those who have been networking and learning how to be better criminals from other gang members in prison is an unnerving thought indeed for a region that is home to an estimated 3,000-5,000 gang members.

## *Gang Violence*

But there is good news: The intelligence sharing initiatives and inter-agency anti-gang enforcement coordination in particular, that became a priority over the last decade, builds on past successes. The Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) leads the fight with its [Long Island Gang Task Force](#), Nassau and Suffolk police each have teams dedicated to disseminating gang tracking info to beat cops, and the district attorneys in each county prioritize gang cases. The [U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of New York](#), which covers LI, is currently prosecuting top MS-13 members caught in past dragnets. Investigators in the jails provide critical intel to those on the outside. And any day now a parade of bad guys will be publicized in the latest [Operation FALCON](#) (an acronym for Federal And Local Cops Organized Nationally), an annual roundup of the worst fugitives spearheaded by the U.S. Marshals.

Despite these efforts, the gang wars rage on, often in obscurity.

Robert Hart, the Former Leader of the FBI's Gang Task Force

“I think a lot of people downplay the gang role in just about every crime because they don’t want the public to believe that we have a gang problem,” says Robert Hart, the former head of the FBI’s local gang task force who retired last November and started his own private investigation firm, [Pathfinder Consultants International](#).

LI’s task force is one of 150 just like it across the U.S., fighting against 20,000 gangs with at least 1 million total members who commit up to 80 percent of all crimes in certain areas, according to the FBI’s 2009 Gang Threat Assessment. Guns, prostitution, muggings, robberies, auto thefts, burglaries, home invasions—these are equal-opportunity offenders, although most start out small, with assaults and drug dealing. Analysts found suburban communities are increasingly becoming a gangster’s paradise.

“There’s a presence, and as long as there’s a presence, you’re going to get the unfavorable characteristics that go along with that,” such as drug dealing, human trafficking and violence, Hart says. That’s because LI’s gang problem, like elsewhere, has roots in social ills that have no signs of going away.

“You can’t say that because you live in a homogenous area that you will never confront a gang member.”

—ROBERT HART, THE FORMER LEADER OF THE FBI’S GANG TASK FORCE

### **IT’S WAR OUT THERE**

Between the **Bloods, Crips, Latin Kings, Salvadorans With Pride, Netas, Hell’s Angels, Pagans, 18th Street**, stray homegrown gangs and the nation’s third largest concentration of **MS-13** outside of Los Angeles and Virginia (a troubling estimation considering how much more organized and militaristic this gang is), authorities have their hands full when it comes to busting street gangs. Each has their own subtle color-coordinated dress code, hand signals and constantly changing slang designed to throw off investigators.

## *Gang Violence*

“We don’t have the resources to attack everyone as a whole, so we go after the worst of the worst,” says Michael Ferrandino, the supervisory special agent in charge of the FBI’s LI gang task force who took over after Hart. “It’s almost like pulling weeds in a garden.” But his line of work is a lot more dangerous than gardening.

There have been repeated attempts by gang members to track down local gang investigators, including those on the task force. In both Hempstead and Huntington, gangsters who staked out police stationhouses were arrested while writing down the license plate numbers on officers’ personal cars. One gang detective who asked that his name not be used recalled meeting eyes with a gang member he had investigated while he was Christmas shopping with his family at the mall. Another reportedly had a landscaper covered in **MS-13** tattoos show up at his house to work.

Most local sets—gang lingo for a local faction of a larger group—of **Bloods** and **Crips** are generally disorganized and often at war with one another, which is the type of gang-on-gang violence that makes up most flare-ups. But **MS-13** poses a different kind of threat.

“A lot of them have legitimate jobs by day,” bringing new meaning to the term weekend warrior, says Ray Tariche, an FBI agent on the task force who is one of the agency’s top **MS-13** experts. “They don’t rely on the gang-illicit activities to fund themselves” in our area, unlike in Los Angeles where **MS-13** members are full-time gangsters, he says.

They can have jobs as bus boys, construction workers and landscapers to fund themselves in between charging “rent” from local shopkeepers, similar to how the **Mafia** offers “protection” for a fee. **MS-13**, which has ties to El Salvador but includes other Central American territories, is also “heavily involved in gun trafficking and more and more [has] become involved in human trafficking,” says Tariche. “They’re handling the whole pipeline from El Salvador, through Mexico to the U.S.” where illegal immigrants pay at each leg of the trip for a total cost of almost \$8,000.

At that rate, a van full of 25 immigrants smuggled into the country can earn the gang \$200,000 at a time, although the recession has had its affect on this trade as well. And with so much at stake, top **MS-13** leaders have visited LI when the local cliques—**MS-13**’s word for set—are not meeting expectations.

This is not a gang that anti-gang advocates have luck getting people out of, either. Discipline, while a facet of all gangs, is sometimes deadly within **MS-13**. Two suspected informants were executed in Old Westbury and Bethpage in 2004.

Police note that these two victims were not actually informants. And for those that do cooperate with investigators, there are protections in place. Federal prosecutors have the witness relocation program for those cases that rise to that level, and for the ones that the district attorneys prosecute, there are relocation programs as well.

## *Gang Violence*

“We keep our end of the bargain so that people know that they can trust us,” says Ed Heilig, bureau chief of the special investigations bureau with Suffolk County District Attorney Thomas Spota’s office. Nassau had to use their version of the program in a case where a family’s house was shot up because one of the kids living there was seen talking to a police officer.

Those who are **MS-13** informants have testified in court that they joined only to avoid beatings from the gang and its rivals, then have to commit violence to show their dedication and wind up wounded, jailed or dead for the gang—same as most any gang. That ethos is symbolized in a gang marking made up of three cigarette burns in the form of a triangle on a member’s skin.

Disturbing as that may be, Tariche cautions against painting a negative stereotype of the entire immigrant community while discussing **MS-13**’s heinous history. “It’s a minority of the people, just like in every other ethnic group, that commits crime,” he says, adding that “99.9 percent” come here to work, not to become criminals. And since **MS-13** has been such a priority and was disrupted by previous crackdowns, other gangs moved in to fill the void.

And so the hits just keep on coming. Like in the case of the murdered Greenport teen, the immigrant and minority communities are often caught in the crosshairs of gang violence.

### **TAKING BACK THE STREETS**

Gang members operate somewhat similar to **La Cosa Nostra**, or the traditional **Mafia**, in their obsession with respect and perceived disrespect, potentially triggering violence. They also similarly respond to law enforcement techniques and adapt their plans to avoid detection, like how some street gangs are said to be less blatant about their colors. But the biggest commonality is their effectiveness in utilizing intimidation, which is not surprising since it is common knowledge that gang initiations often involve random acts of violence.

That’s why investigating gangs is so tricky, because police work tirelessly to get around the “stop snitching” mentality in neighborhoods where gangs are omnipresent and can make a suspected informant’s life a living hell. Mistrust of police is also a big factor.

“We deal with many cases where some of the members of the community are fearful of reporting criminality to the police because they’re afraid of being deported,” says Detective Lt. John Azzata, commanding officer of the Homicide Squad in Nassau. The unit is still looking for the suspected **MS-13** member who fatally stabbed 15-year-old Michael Alguera—who was not in a gang—in the abdomen at the Hempstead High School handball courts in January, 2008. This life was cut short for \$20, a cell phone, an MP3 player and a gold chain.

“Until we can develop a stronger trust, we’re going to have this obstacle,” says Azzata. In the meantime, the police continue to perfect their gang intelligence-gathering and -dissemination techniques.

## *Gang Violence*

### Gang Busters: A Nassau Detective Searches the Gang Member Database

A recent tour of the intelligence center for Nassau police reveals a touch-screen computer, same as those in the department's eight precincts, which allows officers to track gang members by sets and displays their known associates. Inside the office, dubbed the **Lead Generation Center**, investigators from about a dozen federal, state and local law enforcement agencies make sure everyone is on the same page.

Down the hall is the **Special Investigations Squad**, a unit made up of both counter-terrorism and anti-gang detectives that maintain the gang member database and put out a daily report on all gang activity in the county. These are the guys who interrogate every gangster who is arrested, regardless of what the charges are.

"Sometimes they're not so free to talk about their own gang, but they're very free to tell us about other gangs," says Detective Lt. Andrew Mulrain, commanding officer of the squad. The coordination has resulted in more effective investigations than in years past, he adds.

"We were arresting gang members because they're not really master criminals, but we were arresting them as individuals" and not usually taking down the entire gang prior to the consolidation of gang intelligence, Mulrain says. Gang members who show off their hand signals and weapons on their Facebook and MySpace pages also make for a treasure trove of leads which have helped solve murders in the past.

Gang investigators with Suffolk police have a similar operation in some regards, but there are big differences in the way they are set up compared to Nassau. For one, Suffolk police do not have detectives assigned to the FBI's gang task force (both have FBI agents in their intel centers). Also, the **Criminal Intelligence Section** maintains control over the gang member database and instead of one centralized gang squad, there are gang detectives placed in each of the seven precincts. Then there is the **Patrol Special Operations Team (PSOT)** that focuses on one or two precincts at a time, currently the 1st and 3rd Precincts, and moves around Suffolk to quell gang violence flare-ups when they arise.

Here, too, they are up against the self-destructive code of the streets.

**Tangled Web:** A Facebook Page Dedicated to the Bloods Gang, One of Many Such Gang-Related Pages to be Found on Social Networking Sites Like Facebook and MySpace.

"They can have an arch enemy who shot them in the stomach and they won't press charges," says Detective Lt. James Hickey, commanding officer of the Criminal Intelligence Section, referring to wounded gang members who won't tell cops who shot them. Such is a common occurrence in gang-on-gang crimes.

## *Gang Violence*

“When these groups get into a conflict, it’ll go back and forth, back and forth,” says Gerard Gigante, deputy inspector in charge of the PSOT. The best bet is quashing the beef and preventing any violence by rounding up the suspects before it turns into an all-out bloodbath.

“You can’t always prevent the first occurrence, but you can try and prevent the retaliatory hits,” Hickey says.

By all accounts, the most invaluable resource—aside from the threat of federal prison under RICO—is the intelligence gathered in the Nassau and Suffolk jails. Like the detectives on the street, gang unit investigators in the detention centers interview every suspected gang member that comes in the door. And since inmates are a captive audience, these sleuths have a lot more time to do it.

“Very few of them tell you everything that they know and we don’t tell them everything we know,” says Deputy Sheriff Steve Lundquist, Sgt. Investigator for the Gang Intelligence Unit within the jails in Riverhead and Yaphank, where he estimates there are about 250 gang members out of approximately 1,500 inmates. Nassau jail has a similar unit and each is mission critical, considering the fact that “gangs are always evolving,” he says.

And in jail, they are constantly recruiting too. Aside from having to separate gang members at war with one another, Lundquist also sees inmates join gangs behind bars for the sake of survival.

“A lot of guys that come to jail, they leave worse,” he says. Think of it as school for crooks, a place where a gangster’s rep can be forged, which is why it doesn’t make for much of a deterrent. State prison, for those sentenced to more than a year, can be thought of more like grad school. That’s what makes federal prison—some facility in Iowa packed with white supremacists—such an important tool.

## **LIFE AFTER GANGS**

There is nothing in the gang handbook about leaving. The answers to that lay in schoolbooks.

“Everyone has this perception of drug dealers driving around in [a] Mercedes and the reality is most of the people that we’re dealing with, they live with their mother,” Mulrain says. Once these gang members grow up to be ex-cons and realize that they didn’t reach Tony Montana status, the hard part is getting them out and turning them into positive members of society.

“[The idea that] if you’re in a gang and you try and get out, that you’re going to be killed, we just haven’t seen that to be the truth,” says Mulrain, who—like many law enforcement officials—gives lectures to young gang members telling them that there is hope to turn their lives around. For those who take the authorities up on the offer, there is a laundry list of social programs that both give at-risk youth alternatives to joining gangs and parolees support in turning their lives around after they are released.

## *Gang Violence*

“Young people don’t truly understand the reality and devastation caused by gang membership,” says Sergio Argueta, executive director of **Struggling to Reunite our New Generation (STRONG)**, a nonprofit gang prevention organization based out of a rented colonial house in Hempstead. Argueta should know: He formed the group nearly a decade ago when he left the gang life himself, following his friend’s murder. The best prevention is good parenting.

The Bloods, widely considered Long Island’s largest gang, didn’t follow their own rule about not writing incriminating letters, as evident in this document that suffolk investigators found in a raid (note: in place of letter “c,” these bloods write “3.”)

“If you take the front cover of your kid’s notebook and if every time there’s a letter ‘C’ and it’s crossed out, you pretty much know that you have an issue here,” says Teresa Corrigan, bureau chief for Nassau County District Attorney’s gang unit. “You probably have a budding Blood member on your hands. Same thing if the ‘B’ is crossed out, you probably have a budding Crip member on your hands,” because crossing out those letters is one of the many subtle ways gang members disrespect their rivals.

“That parent that takes a look at their kid’s notebook can really learn a lot without being invasive or intrusive,” says Corrigan. If there is evidence, the issue can then become acceptance.

“Parents denying their children are involved in it when the facts are staring them in the face” is a common problem, says Sgt. Patrick Reilly, 3rd Precinct Crime Control unit with Suffolk police.

The gang problem is also not just a problem for certain neighborhoods.

“You can’t just say that gangs are confined to certain neighborhoods that are economically deprived,” says Hart, the task force’s former leader. “That simply isn’t true. Gang members, just like everyone else, are able to get into cars.

“You can’t say that because you live in a homogeneous area that you will never confront a gang member,” he adds. “To say that they don’t go into certain neighborhoods would be naïve.”

Considering how segregated Long Island’s poor communities are compared to the rest of the middle- and upper-class neighborhoods, it is not hard to see how that misperception came to be, however.

“Seventy percent of crime comes from 11 percent of the county straight down the middle corridor,” says Nassau County District Attorney Kathleen Rice, referring to the Freeport, Roosevelt, Uniondale and Hempstead areas. “I think that in the past there was this philosophy that containment might be something that you could do, and what we’re seeing is areas [in which] you never would have thought about gangs, worrying about gangs.”

(Taken from Long Island Press.com)

<http://archive.longislandpress.com/2009/07/23/gangs-of-long-island-rape-drugs-murder/>

## Gang Violence

Last year (2012) Dr. Anna Hayward and Dr. Robert Marmo, who is the Chief Planner at the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council, published an extensive document on gang violence in Suffolk County. Dr. Hayward and Dr. Marmo are both professors at Stony Brook University's School of Social Welfare. That document can be obtained for free at

<http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/CriminalJusticeCoordinatingCouncil/CJCCPublications.aspx>.

On the right side of the page just click "Profile of Gang Members in Suffolk County."

From this document:

Hamlet in Suffolk County	Percent of Total Gang Population	Percent of Residents Below Poverty Level
Brentwood	12% (n=475)	11.30%
Central Islip	8% (n=342)	11.40%
Bay Shore	7% (n=292)	12.20%
Wyandanch	6% (n=255)	16.40%
Amityville	4% (n=162)	7.50%
Mastic	4% (n=150)	13%
Mastic Beach	3% (n=129)	11.30%
Shirley	3% (n=128)	7.80%
Bellport	3% (n=116)	1.60%
Medford	3% (n=116)	2.90%
Coram	3% (n=115)	5.60%
Riverhead	3% (n=111)	13%

Percentage of youth gang members in Suffolk County (total= 1,309)

Age	Number of gang members	Percentage of youth gang population
14-15	45	3%
16	105	8%
17	131	10%
18	195	15%
19	258	20%
20	274	21%
21	301	23%



## Incarcerated Youth

For an extensive report on Suffolk County Jail and probation statistics please defer to the 2008 Suffolk County Jail Population Analysis Report

<http://www.suffolkcountyny.gov/Departments/CriminalJusticeCoordinatingCouncil/CJCCPublications.aspx>.

*Suffolk County Jail Population Study: An Analysis of Inmate Characteristics* Prepared by the Suffolk County Criminal Justice Coordinating Council Staff  
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### 4.2.4 Age

The average age for all inmates in the Suffolk County jail was 33 years old. The average age of male inmates was 32 and the average age of female inmates was 35. Almost half of all inmates (48%) are under 30 years of age. The ages of inmates range from the youngest at 16 years to the oldest who is 71 years old. The most common age for inmates is 22. The largest numbers of offenders fall into the 22-30 year old age group category.

Table 8. Age Categories of Inmates (N=1884)	Females	Total	Percent	
Males				
16-18 years old	97	3	100	5.3
19-21 years old	203	19	222	11.8
22-30 years old	540	47	587	31.2
31-40 years old	424	44	468	24.8
41-50 years old	341	53	394	20.9
51-60 years old	85	15	100	5.3
60+ years old	13	0	13	.7
Total	1703	181	1884	100.0

### 4.2.11 Gang Affiliation

19% (354) of all inmates were identified as being affiliated with a gang. 68% (242) of those identified were in pre-trial status. 59% (209) of gang affiliated inmates were in pre-trial felony status and 9% (33) were misdemeanor status. See table 34. 20% of all male inmates were identified as gang affiliated and 9% of all female inmates were identified as gang affiliated.

Gang affiliated inmates spent an average of 119 days in custody while non gang affiliated inmates spent an average of 106 days in custody. See Table 36. 30% (234) of all Black inmates were identified as gang affiliated while 11% (114) of all White inmates were identified as gang affiliated. 21% (83) of Hispanic inmates were identified as gang affiliated while 19% (265) of non Hispanic inmates were identified as gang affiliated. 50% (50) of all inmates ages 16 to 18 were identified as gang affiliated and 40% (88) of inmates ages 19 to 21 were identified as gang affiliated.

## *Childhood Obesity*

### **Childhood Obesity: A Growing Problem**

By [Long Island Press](#) on October 1st, 2009

By *Elizabeth Siris Winchester*

Adrienne Goldenbaum, lunch director of the West Babylon School District for the past 30 years, witnesses the poor eating habits of many Long Island children in school cafeterias daily. She fears she may even have unintentionally contributed to them.

“When I first started in food service everything was made from scratch—Salisbury steak, mashed potatoes, even the rolls,” Goldenbaum explains. “Then, all of a sudden, it became fast food and everything was fried and the caloric intake of meals was much higher.”

Goldenbaum observes, too, that as kids consume more calories, they appear to exercise less. “A lot of the kids these days don’t go out and move. They are consuming these huge amounts of calories and not burning them off,” she says. “Life is just different than when I was growing up and we were out all day playing until dinner time.”

A high caloric diet paired with a sedentary lifestyle is a recipe for excessive weight gain, and a major reason for the current childhood obesity epidemic in the United States. Genetics also comes into play. The American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry states that children with one obese parent have a 50 percent chance of becoming obese; if both parents are obese, the risk jumps to 80 percent. Certain medications, stress and illness may also be to blame.

No matter what causes childhood obesity, Goldenbaum is correct in observing it rise throughout her career. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), since 1980 the number of American children who are obese more than doubled for ages 2 to 5, almost tripled for ages 6 to 11, and more than tripled for ages 12 to 19. Today, about one out of three children and teenagers in the U.S. is overweight or obese.

### **Measuring Obesity And Its Costs**

Obesity is defined as an excess percentage of body fat. In adults and children over the age of 2, obesity is measured by the body mass index (BMI). The BMI is calculated using a person’s weight in relation to his or her height. For children and adolescents, BMI measurements are plotted on charts for age and gender, for percentile rankings. Those with a BMI more than the 85th percentile but less than the 95th percentile are considered overweight; those above the 95th percentile are considered obese. ([Calculate your child’s BMI.](#))

## *Childhood Obesity*

Pediatricians assess a child's BMI on every well visit after the age of 2. Dr. John Sheehy, who has been in pediatric practice in Glen Cove since 1978, notes exceptions to BMI classifications. "If kids are very athletic they are going to have increased bone density and muscle mass, and in those kids the BMI might be higher," says Sheehy. "I say, 'Don't look at your weight; look at your conditioning. Look at how your pants fit.'"

Exceptions aside, why do the skyrocketing childhood obesity rates have experts very concerned?

"Doctors have been finding cases of what used to be 'adult' diseases [such as heart disease, type 2 diabetes, and conditions including high blood pressure and elevated cholesterol] in overweight teenagers and children as young as age 6," explains Dr. Joanna Dolgoff, a pediatrician who began specializing in treating childhood obesity in February of 2008, when she started Roslyn-based Dr. Dolgoff's Weigh: Child and Adolescent Weight Management Program. "New research indicates that childhood obesity itself may shorten one's life span, even if that person is not obese as an adult."

While many obesity-related complications may only be apparent to experts, parents may be able to observe some associated problems at home. These conditions include asthma and other breathing problems, troubled sleep, joint pain, depression and anxiety. Studies have shown that overweight and obese children are more likely to be victims of bullying and peer discrimination.

As if a rise in obesity-related illnesses in young people today is not damaging enough to society and future generations, the cost of treating them is. The CDC reports that from 1997 to 1999, hospital costs each year related to treating obesity in children and adolescents were \$127 million, while from 1979 to 1981 they were \$35 million.

"The average U.S. taxpayer pays \$175 per year to finance obesity," said Eric Finkelstein, Ph.D., at the National Conference on Childhood Obesity in June. "Obesity increases the nation's health care bill by more than \$90 billion per year."

### **Fighting The Fat**

Obesity has emerged as a leading health hazard in the U.S., and government and school officials, doctors, parents and other community members are working to reduce the growing problem. In New York State, where almost 60 percent of adult residents are overweight or obese (in Nassau County, it's 52 percent, and Suffolk, 57 percent), U.S. Sen. Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY) has made fighting childhood obesity a top priority.

"The most effective way to address obesity is to provide healthier food and exercise opportunities for our children," the senator said. "We need to be taking real steps to give parents, schools and communities the resources they need to give our children access to fresh fruits and vegetables."

### *Childhood Obesity*

This past July, Gillibrand introduced legislation that would prohibit public school cafeterias from serving trans fats, and help educate parents about the dangers of overloading on foods that are high in fat from hydrogenated oils. New York City public schools have been successful in their quest to do so ever since the city's trans fat ban in restaurants began in July 2007. Gillibrand also plans to work to get schools to cut back on the amount of junk food they serve.

But meals that include fresh fruits and vegetables and top-quality meats come at a higher price than the ones that many school districts are currently serving. The Child Nutrition and WIC Reauthorization Act, which is scheduled to expire on Sept. 30 (at press time, it was anticipated that Congress would extend this deadline until later this fall), determines how much money the federal government provides to schools for reimbursable meal programs. One such initiative is the National School Lunch Program, which gives low-cost or free lunches to students who qualify for them. Gillibrand would like to increase the reimbursements for the lunches by 70 cents per meal, in hopes that by doing so, schools will be able to improve the meals' nutritional value.

(Taken from Long Island Press.com)

<http://archive.longislandpress.com/2009/10/01/a-growing-problem/>

## **Childhood Obesity**

Source: New York State Department of Health:

[http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/chac/chai/docs/obs\\_47.htm](http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/chac/chai/docs/obs_47.htm)

**2009-2010**

**All students:**

Overweight but not obese	15.20%
Obese	16.50%
Overweight or obese	31.70%

**Elementary school students:**

Overweight but not obese	13.90%
Obese	15.20%
Overweight or obese	29.10%

**Middle and high school students:**

Overweight but not obese	17.10%
Obese	18.40%
Overweight or obese	35.50%

## *Suicide*

### **LI Schools Struggle With Rise In Teen Suicides**

By [Jackie Salo](#) on August 16th, 2012

For Lynn Hunter the suicidal thoughts began in 9th grade when she started as a new student at Commack High School.

She was bullied the first day after mistaking a classmate she didn't know for someone else.

"It was a silly mistake, but the girl and her friends laughed at me," Hunter tells the *Press*. "I saw them later in gym class and I could hear them talking about it again."

The harassment snowballed from there.

When Hunter logged on to her Facebook account later that day she saw the girls had left her a nasty message through an anonymous messaging application called Honesty Box.

"They told me to go back to my old school," she says.

Another student hung up a picture of an ugly-looking man with her name scrawled beneath it in class. Hunter asked the teacher to take it down, but he wouldn't. Only when her parents got involved was the sign removed, she says.

The 15-year-old, who says she used to make friends easily, didn't want to return to Commack High. Her apathy toward tests and schoolwork worsened. Her grades started to slip.

"Going to school was the worst thing for me," she says. "I began to feel very lonely."

Hunter began counseling and medication for depression later that year, but the suicidal thoughts crowding her mind did not stop. She threatened to kill herself, even going so far as to stay outside in the biting cold of winter in a failed attempt to freeze to death.

"I wanted to disappear," she says.

Hunter is but one of more than 5 million 10- to 24-year-olds who attempt suicide each year, according to the latest statistics from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Suicide is the third-leading cause of death among that age group and accounts for 13 percent of all its deaths, according to the agency. The new figures, released in June, reveal a disturbing trend: The number of attempted suicides among teenagers has been increasing, from 6.3 percent in 2009 to 7.8 percent last year.

## *Suicide*

The demographic also experienced substantial spikes in those having suicidal thoughts and those who'd actually made a suicide plan during that time, up about 2 percent for each category, says the agency.

Suicide is not only on the rise nationally, it's also growing statewide and on Long Island. The most recent data from the New York State Health Department indicates that instances of suicide among teenagers aged 15 to 19 on Long Island in 2010 were more than double each of the previous three years.

And although the state health department's 2011 suicide figures aren't available yet, a spokesman for the agency tells the *Press* five teens took their own lives last year in Nassau and 11 in Suffolk—up from two and five, respectively, just a year earlier.

As alarming as the numbers are, suicide prevention specialists believe the true figures are actually higher and that suicide is the No. 1 killer of teens, since not every self-inflicted act has a suicide note and families often try to keep such a tragedy's truth within the family.

While teens are confronted with the age-old challenges of peer and academic pressures, family tension and depression, suicide prevention specialists and other experts interviewed for this story say the Internet—with its myriad social networking sites and global, real-time audience—plays a lethal role in the disturbing trend. Instead of the taunting or bullying that historically took place in the schoolyard or hallways, teens are now victim to cyberbullying—vicious attacks plastered across the Web to a much wider audience with the possibility of the bullies' complete anonymity.

New legislation signed into law last month by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, called the Dignity for All Students Act, seeks to crack-down on cyberbullying and other forms of student torment by holding school officials more accountable.

With the new school year set to begin next month at Long Island's 124 school districts, suicide prevention specialists from both counties are getting ready for yet another academic year of educating and spreading awareness.

Along with parents and students, they tell the *Press* much more can be done to combat and better equip students to handle suicide and its many causes.

They know it's not going to be easy.

"One of the most important issues is to reduce the stigma, so everyone feels comfortable and so a kid will feel comfortable talking to an adult about it," says Theresa Buhse, associate director of the [Long Island Crisis Center](#).

## *Suicide*

“Suicide is here and has probably been here since the dawn of time, and if we don’t educate people and talk about it and reduce the stigma around it, people won’t seek treatment,” adds Dale Camhi, the Long Island regional director of the [American Foundation of Suicide Prevention \(AFSP\)](#).

(Taken from Long Island Press.com)

<http://archive.longislandpress.com/2012/08/16/li-schools-struggle-with-rise-in-teen-suicides/>

### **Long Island Community Gathers To Discuss Gay Teen’s Recent Suicide**

Hundreds of parents, students and community members in the Hamptons are expected to attend a meeting tonight regarding the recent suicide of 16-year-old David Hernandez Barros.

The East Hampton High School student had reportedly been a victim of anti-gay bullying before his death—and had even attended a Gay Straight Alliance meeting just days before taking his own life on September 29.

The meeting was organized by Long Island Gay and Lesbian Youth (LIGALY) to give the community a chance to remember David and “chart a course forward to combat the isolation” that LGBT youth face.

Though David’s sexuality was not known at the time of his death, LIGALY Director David Kilmnick told Patch that “it really shouldn’t matter at this point.”

He’s also careful not to point blame in any one direction: “When issues of bullying arise, people are quick to look for blame. Many times, right or wrong, schools bear the brunt of this blame,” Kilmnick says. “The East Hampton School District is a model for what schools should be doing to address anti-GLBT bullying. However, schools cannot do this alone, and we are bringing the East End community together to make sure that going forward, teens like David Hernandez have a local GLBT Center than can go to as a safe haven.”

By: Lester Brathwaite

On: Oct 22, 2012

(Taken from Queerty.com)

<http://www.queerty.com/david-hernandez-suicide-easthampton-community-meeting-20121022/>



## **Suicide**

Youth suicide is an intensively stigmatized and often misunderstood subject. According to the CDC, suicide is the third leading cause of death among people ages 10-24, with approximately 4,600 deaths each year.

To see a breakdown of suicide or other fatal injury statistics by region visit:

<http://wisqars.cdc.gov:8080/cdcMapFramework/>.

According to Response of Suffolk County, there were 141 suicides in 2012. 13 of these people were 21 or younger, and 21 of these people were 24 or younger. Suicide not only affects those who have passed, but also greatly affects their friends and family as well. These people are often referred to as “survivors of suicide,” and are left with many unanswerable questions.

A note on the LGBT population:

Research suggests that members of the LGBT population are at a much greater risk to attempt and complete suicide compared to the heterosexual population. Haas et al. published an enormous study in 2011 studying the risk between being a part of the LGBT population and subsequent risk of suicide. One of their most concerning findings was that homosexual men were as much as six times more likely to attempt suicide compared to their heterosexual counterparts.

For urgent help regarding suicidal matters please contact the response hotline at anytime.  
(631) 751-7500

<http://www.responsehotline.org/>

For more information on how to help Long Island’s LGBT population please contact LIGALY.

<http://www.ligaly.org/>

## *HIV/AIDS*

### **Not In Our Backyards? Revisiting the HIV/AIDS Epidemic In 2013**

**By Dina Mann, Vice Chair, Episcopal Response to AIDS**

With the progress of introducing new and streamlined Anti-Retroviral Therapies (ART), HIV/AIDS has quietly disappeared into the background, especially as it is now described as a chronic condition, taking its place alongside other chronic illnesses. Effective treatment, (ART) allows many to live a long life span into old age.\*

Mistakenly, HIV/AIDS has lost its urgency: the attention that it had back in the 80's and 90's, at the height of the epidemic, has waned. The statistics show otherwise! There are approximately 32 million people living with AIDS globally; of these, only 8 million have access to ART therapies. There are over 3 million people in Africa alone—age 50 and older—with HIV! According to the Health Department data, Nassau/Suffolk counties reported 5,616 persons living with HIV and of these 43% are age 50 and older; 78% are age 40 and older. There were 217 newly diagnosed HIV cases in 2010. Given these numbers, HIV/AIDS is in *all* of our collective backyards.

HIV/AIDS is a PREVENTABLE disease. So what can our communities of faith do to stem the tide of new HIV infections while supporting those who are already infected? We can mobilize to create innovative health ministries. Having health fairs that include HIV/AIDS testing, prevention, education, retention in care and support alongside other ROUTINE testing for Diabetes, Hypertension, Flu vaccine, etc., is a step in the right direction. HIV testing is only offered up until age 64, and after that age it must be requested by the patient. A missed or late HIV diagnosis leads to AIDS. Late/missed diagnoses in turn lead to the spreading of the virus by an individual who is unaware of the infection. In fact, the likelihood of having an AIDS diagnosis increases as one ages. It means that the healthcare system is 'missing' older adults in their 40's and not testing early. The lack of testing is mainly due to the HIV related stigma and the belief that older *people do not engage in sex and therefore are not at risk*. **Stigma and fear lead to shame, lack of treatment & spread of the illness.**

Instead, let's be proactive! Faith communities are ideal settings to do this kind of work, as people generally turn first to their faith community, friends and clergy for support and to share in their suffering. Here below are some tips on planning a health fair which includes HIV testing, prevention and education:

#### **EDUCATION**

1. CREATE a 'buy-in' partnership with your local hospital, HIV agency or health clinic that will provide the testing, pamphlets & staff. They often will do this for little or no cost as it benefits them as well.
2. IMPLEMENTATION AND PLANNING: outreach, publicity & supervision. Plan age

## ***HIV/ AIDS***

appropriate education! (Older adults would not want to attend a session targeting teens and young adults)

3. MONITORING AND EVALUATION: How many people attended? How many got tested for HIV? What was the community response?

### **RESOURCES** (abbreviated list)

- Centers for Disease Control
- New York City Department of Health AIDS Institute
- New York State Department of Health
- Latino Commission on AIDS
- Gay Men's Health Crisis (GMHC)
- AIDS Center of Queens County (ACQC)
- AIDS Research Initiative of America (ACRIA)
- Bronx AIDS Services
- The Greying of AIDS <http://www.greyingofaids.org/>

Taken from:

<http://www.dioceselongisland.org/newsDetail.php?Not-In-Our-Backyards-Revisiting-the-HIV-AIDS-Epidemic-In-2013-662>

## HIV/AIDS

For a detailed analysis of HIV/AIDS cases in Nassau and Suffolk County please see the New York State Health Department's Surveillance Report at:

<http://www.health.ny.gov/diseases/aids/statistics/annual/index.htm>

### Total Number of HIV and AIDS cases by County

Albany	1,108
Erie	2,033
Dutchess	1,211
Monroe	2,229
Nassau	2,909
Onondaga	1,039
Rockland	764
<b>Suffolk</b>	<b>2,956</b>
Westchester	3,834
Total (excluding NYC)	27,451
NYC	101,202

### Live Birth Data

For more detailed information on birth rate information please visit:

[http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital\\_statistics/2010/](http://www.health.ny.gov/statistics/vital_statistics/2010/)

### Live Births by Resident County (2010)

Albany	3,074
Erie	9,757
Dutchess	2,867
Monroe	8,526
Nassau	14,200
Onondaga	5,348
Rockland	4,525
<b>Suffolk</b>	<b>16,805</b>
Westchester	11,104

### Perinatal Risk

“The overall situation with respect to the health of Long Island’s youth is partly reflected by information concerning maternal and perinatal care. A variety of factors, including low birth weight, mothers who receive no or late prenatal care, and poverty, place children at greater medical, developmental, and social risk.” For more information on this study done by the Rauch Foundation you can go to:

<http://www.longislandindex.org/explore/170bcc43-8480-4244-94df-ad1e3f59f82a>

## *Child Abuse*

### **Child abuse reaches new highs on Long Island**

Published: June 12, 2009 3:53 PM

By BART JONES

[Suffolk](#) County broke a record in March, but not the kind it wants to brag about - for the first time, more than 1,000 cases of child abuse or neglect were reported in a month. "We knew it was going to happen sooner or later. It finally happened," said Dennis Nowak, a spokesman for the Suffolk County Department of Social Services. The increase to 1,015 cases "was a big jump and this month is going in the same direction. We might break 1,000 again." In a week in which Suffolk police made arrests in two horrific abuse cases involving 10 children, officials say the high-profile cases underscore what is a growing problem amid deepening economic problems. "I think it has a lot to do with the economy," said Dr. Bella Silecchia, a child abuse specialist at [Nassau](#) University Medical Center. "People are under a lot of stress and who it cascades onto are the innocent victims in the family - the children." Nowak said there were 9,534 cases reported last year in Suffolk, an increase of 8 percent over 2007. And this year, the numbers keep growing: the first five months of this year are up 5.5 percent compared to the same time period last year. He also said the severity of the cases is increasing. Last year, 30 percent of reported cases were substantiated as credible. For the first five months of this year, it was 32.4 percent, although in March and May it hit at least 35 percent. In Nassau it is a similar story. The number of cases grew from 6,624 to 7,192 between 2007 and 2008, an 8 percent increase, said Karen Garber, a spokeswoman for the Nassau County Department of Social Services. For the first five months of this year the number of cases are up 3 percent compared to the same period last year. Officials and experts give a variety of explanations for the increases. Nowak noted that a law that went into effect in October 2007 requires professionals including medical and educational personnel to report suspected child abuse or neglect directly to authorities. Previously, they could report it to a superior such as a principal and then decide whether to contact authorities. Garber said public attention surrounding the case of Leatrice Brewer, a New Cassel resident who drowned her three children in February 2008, contributed to an increase in reports in Nassau. But officials and child abuse experts said the economy is a factor, too. "It certainly adds stress to families when people are out of work," said Cynthia Scott, executive director of the Garden City-based Coalition Against Child Abuse and Neglect.

(Taken from Newsday.com

<http://www.newsday.com/long-island/nassau/child-abuse-reaches-new-highs-on-long-island-1.1244000>)

To learn more about child abuse go to:

<http://www.ocfs.state.ny.us/main/cps/>

If you Suspect Child Abuse or Neglect Call:

**Child Abuse Hotline: 1-800-342-3720      TDD/TTY: 1-800-638-5163**

If you believe that a child is in immediate danger, call 911 or your local Police Department

Note: Due to the sensitive nature of child abuse, the following data is not available online. For the most up to date statistics please contact the Department of Social Services.

## Child Abuse

Cases reported by zip code for 2012

TOWN	ZIP CODE	Number	Percent
AMITYVILLE	11701	277	3.04%
AQUEBOGUE	11931	10	0.11%
BABYLON	11702	64	0.70%
WEST BABYLON	11704	259	2.84%
BAY SHORE	11706	624	6.85%
BAYPORT	11705	37	0.41%
BELLPORT	11713	217	2.38%
BLUE POINT	11715	21	0.23%
BOHEMIA	11716	58	0.64%
BRENTWOOD	11717	648	7.11%
BRIDGEHAMPTON	11932	7	0.08%
SOUTHAMPTON	11968	56	0.61%
BRIGHTWATERS	11718	15	0.16%
BROOKHAVEN	11719	24	0.26%
CALVERTON	11933	51	0.56%
CENTER MORICHES	11934	51	0.56%
CENTERAL ISLIP	11722	441	4.84%
CENTEREACH	11720	152	1.67%
EAST PATCHOGUE	11772	512	5.62%
CENTERPORT	11721	17	0.19%
COLD SPRING HARBOR	11724	2	0.02%
COMMACK	11725	103	1.13%
COPIAGUE	11726	160	1.76%
CORAM	11727	238	2.61%
CUTCHOGUE	11935	13	0.14%
DEER PARK	11729	159	1.74%
DIX HILLS/HUNTINGTON STA.	11746	344	3.78%
E MORICHES	11940	25	0.27%
E. SETAUKET	11733	48	0.53%
E. YAPHANK/SHIRLEY	11967	423	4.64%
EAST HAMPTON	11937	104	1.14%
EAST ISLIP	11730	73	0.80%
EAST MARION	11939	8	0.09%
EAST NORTHPORT	11731	114	1.25%

## Child Abuse

Continued...

EAST QUOGUE	11942	21	0.23%
EASTPORT	11941	12	0.13%
FARMINGDALE	11735	38	0.42%
FARMINGVILLE	11738	141	1.55%
FLANDERS/RIVERHEAD	11901	293	3.22%
FORT SALONGA	11768	63	0.69%
GREENLAWN	11740	22	0.24%
GREENPORT	11944	40	0.44%
HAMPTON BAYS	11946	112	1.23%
HAUPPAUGE	11788	52	0.57%
HOLBROOK	11741	170	1.87%
HOLTSVILLE	11742	82	0.90%
HUNTINGTON	11743	128	1.40%
ISLANDIA	11749	28	0.31%
ISLIP	11751	82	0.90%
ISLIP TERRACE	11752	43	0.47%
JAMESPORT	11947	2	0.02%
KINGS PARK	11754	60	0.66%
LAKE GROVE	11755	54	0.59%
LAKE RONKONKOMA	11779	286	3.14%
LINDENHURST	11757	247	2.71%
MANORVILLE	11949	84	0.92%
MASTIC	11950	320	3.51%
RIDGE	11961	98	1.08%
MASTIC BEACH	11951	337	3.70%
MATTITUCK	11952	30	0.33%
MEDFORD	11763	314	3.45%
MELVILLE	11747	35	0.38%
MIDDLE ISLAND	11953	168	1.84%
MILLER PLACE	11764	39	0.43%
MONTAUK	11954	14	0.15%
MORICHES	11955	23	0.25%
MOUNT SINAI	11766	47	0.52%
N. BABYLON	11703	98	1.08%
NESCONSET	11767	47	0.52%



### Child Abuse

NEW SUFFOLK	11956	2	0.02%
YAPHANK	11980	49	0.54%
OAKDALE	11769	22	0.24%
ORIENT	11957	2	0.02%
PECONIC	11958	7	0.08%
PORT JEFERSON STATION	11776	101	1.11%
PORT JEFFERSON	11777	52	0.57%
ROCKY POINT	11778	116	1.27%
SAG HARBOR	11963	31	0.34%
SAINT JAMES	11780	49	0.54%
SAYVILLE	11782	61	0.67%
SELDEN	11784	203	2.23%
SHELTER ISLAND	11964	14	0.15%
SHOREHAM	11786	30	0.33%
SMITHTOWN	11787	94	1.03%
SOUND BEACH	11789	47	0.52%
SOUTHOLD	11971	23	0.25%
SPEONK	11972	10	0.11%
STONY BROOK	11790	40	0.44%
WADING RIVER	11792	39	0.43%
WAINSCOTT	11975	4	0.04%
WATERMILL	11976	5	0.05%
WEST HAMPTON	11977	5	0.05%
WEST HAMPTON BEACH	11978	15	0.16%
WEST ISLIP	11795	82	0.90%
WEST SAYVILLE	11796	12	0.13%
WHEATLEY HEIGHTS/WYANDANCH	11798	268	2.94%
OCEAN BEACH	11770	1	0.01%
LAUREL	11948	3	0.03%
QUOGUE	11959	1	0.01%
Other	99999	62	0.68%
AMAGANSETT	11930	3	0.03%
SAGAPONACK	11962	1	0.01%
REMSENBURG	11960	1	0.01%
GREAT RIVER	11739	1	0.01%

Source: Suffolk County Department of Social Services

## *School Data*

### **HS graduation rates dip on Long Island**

By JOHN HILDEBRAND

Originally published: June 11, 2012 8:35 PM

High-school graduation rates on Long Island dipped slightly in the state's latest counts, even as statewide rates inched upward.

Across [Nassau](#) and [Suffolk](#) counties, 87 percent of students graduated on time in June 2011, according to data released Monday by the state Education Department. The regional figure was down slightly from the 87.6 percent reported for the Island's graduates in June 2010.

Meanwhile, the statewide graduation rates rose slightly to 74 percent in June 2011, up from 73.4 percent the previous year. Both Long Island and the state saw slight declines in percentages of graduates deemed fully prepared for college.

Regional school officials shrugged off the latest results, saying the one-year declines were too small to be significant. But there was shock in the [Hempstead](#) school district, where the graduation rate plunged to 28 percent in 2011, compared with 46 percent in 2010, according to the state.

"That's unacceptable," said Charles Renfroe, [Hempstead](#)'s school board president, who added that he was surprised by the latest results and would take them up with district administrators at a meeting Monday night that was scheduled before the state released its figures. "Hope it's a misprint."

### **Some local improvements**

Elsewhere, some local districts saw improvements in percentages of graduates awarded Regents Diplomas with Advanced Designations. Those are regarded by state officials as evidence of [college readiness](#) because they require advanced coursework -- such as trigonometry.

"It's a very positive trend line," said Bill Heidenreich, superintendent of the [Valley Stream](#) Central High School District, which saw gains.

Percentages of students earning advanced diplomas also jumped in [Westhampton Beach](#), one of a growing number of districts that provides an extra period of math every other day for teens needing help with trigonometry. Christopher Herr, the high school principal, said guidance counselors frequently meet with students and parents to explain the advantages of having advanced math credits on transcripts that are submitted to colleges.

"Students are pushing themselves across the board," Herr said.

### *School Data*

Generally, however, percentages of students obtaining advanced diplomas declined both regionally and statewide. On the Island, 49.4 percent of students obtained advanced diplomas in 2011, compared with 50.1 percent the previous year. Statewide, the figure dipped to 30.6 percent to 30.9 percent.

In an apparent reference to recent criticism from Gov. Andrew M. [Cuomo](#), the department noted that a new report published by Education Week magazine ranked [New York](#) tied at 10th among states in terms of graduation rates. Those rates were calculated by a research agency associated with the weekly publication.

Cuomo, in contrast, has cited federal statistics ranking [New York](#) as 39th in graduation rates as evidence that school reform is needed. The two sets of figures are calculated in different ways and are not directly comparable.

The governor's office had no comment Monday.

Monday's release by the Education Department said that results for the graduating classes of 2011 and 2010 were not exactly comparable either, because the state had been phasing in a new Integrated Algebra exam covering a year's coursework in math, while phasing out a Math "A" exam covering a year-and-a-half. Educators generally consider the Integrated Algebra exam to be easier than the Math "A" exam.

#### **Reasons unclear**

Department spokesman Tom Dunn, when asked why the switch to an exam considered easier would be accompanied by a decline in results, said he could not go beyond the explanation provided in the agency's original release.

A growing number of the Island's educators have concluded that the state should report results not only on Regents exams and other state tests, but also on Advanced Placement tests and International Baccalaureate exams that are used increasingly in local high schools.

The AP and IB tests, produced by nonprofit agencies, are of college-level difficulty, and results on those exams are reported in some other states, such as Florida and [Illinois](#).

Lorna Lewis, the [East Williston](#) schools chief, called for reporting of AP and IB results in testimony Monday at a State Senate hearing, saying that would be better than producing new tests planned by the state as a way to evaluate teachers.

"It's just universally accepted that, for students taking the AP and IB courses, they're just more [college-ready](#)," said Lewis. She is co-chairwoman of a curriculum committee for the State Council of School Superintendents.

(Taken from Newsday.com <https://www.newsday.com/long-island/education/hs-graduation-rates-dip-on-long-island-1.3776141>)

## School Data

Below are the rankings for various demographics of schools in Suffolk County. Only school districts with at least 500 students enrolled were considered. The data pertaining to school suspensions is from the 2009-2010 school year. All other data was gathered from the 2010-2011 school year. For more information on school data please refer to

<https://reportcards.nysed.gov/>.

### Highest Number of Students Enrolled

1. Brentwood	16,456
2. Sachem	14,668
3. Smithtown	10,810
4. Middle Country	10,319
5. Half Hollow Hills	9,882
6. William Floyd	9,178
7. Longwood	9,153
8. Patchogue-Medford	8,188
9. Commack	7,509
10. Three Village	7,378

### School Data

#### Percentage of African American Students

1. Wyandanch	67%
2. Amityville	54%
3. Copiague	30%
4. Central Islip	27%
5. South Country	25%
6. North Babylon	24%
7. Bay Shore	23%
8. Riverhead	20%
8. Longwood	20%
10. Deer Park	17%

#### Number of African American Students

1. Brentwood	2,472
2. Longwood	1,808
3. Central Islip	1,738
4. Amityville	1,503
5. Copiague	1,416
6. Wyandanch	1,350
7. Bay Shore	1,315
8. Half Hollow Hills	1,297
9. William Floyd	1,277
10. North Babylon	1,142

### School Data

#### Percentage of Hispanic Students

1. Brentwood	75%
2. Central Islip	52%
3. Copiague	47%
4. Hampton Bays	42%
5. East Hampton	38%
6. Amityville	35%
7. Bay Shore	33%
8. Wyandanch	32%
8. Huntington	32%
10. Southampton	25%

#### Total Number of Hispanic Students

1. Brentwood	12,280
2. Central Islip	3,380
3. Patchogue-Medford	2,287
4. Copiague	2,238
5. Bay Shore	1,891
6. William Floyd	1,650
7. South Huntington	1,500
8. Huntington	1,430
9. Riverhead	1,193
10. Middle Country	1,166

## School Data

### Percentage of Suspended Students

1. Central Islip	17%
2. Wyandanch	12%
3. Amityville	9%
4. Longwood	8%
4. William Floyd	8%
4. South Country	8%
4. East Hampton	8%
8. Bay Shore	7%
8. Westhampton	7%
10. Brentwood	6%
10. Patchogue-Medford	6%
10. South Huntington	6%
10. Copiague	6%
10. West Babylon	6%
10. Rocky Point	6%

### Number of Suspended Students

1. Central Islip	1,091
2. Brentwood	1,028
3. Longwood	743
4. William Floyd	730
5. Patchogue-Medford	461
6. Bay Shore	398
7. Sachem	387
8. South Country	376
9. Middle Country	361
10. South Huntington	338

### School Data

#### Percentage of Students Eligible for Free Lunch

1. Wyandanch	59%
2. Central Islip	52%
3. Amityville	51%
4. Brentwood	50%
4. Copiague	50%
6. Bay Shore	38%
7. Riverhead	37%
8. William Floyd	35%
9. South Country	34%
10. South Huntington	32%

#### Number of Students Eligible for Free Lunch

1. Brentwood	8,261
2. William Floyd	3,168
3. Central Islip	3,092
4. Longwood	2,430
5. Copiague	2,379
6. Bay Shore	2,206
7. South Huntington	1,906
8. Riverhead	1,833
9. Patchogue-Medford	1,656
10. South Country	1,539



## **Other Resources**

### **KWIC**

In addition to all of the great online resources that I have provided I would like to leave you with one last outstanding website. KWIC, or Kids' Well-being Indicators Clearinghouse, offers an immense amount of data regarding vulnerable youth populations across New York State as well as all of the individual Counties. All of this information can be accessed here.

<http://www.nyskwic.org/>

For Suffolk County specifically, click here:

[http://www.nyskwic.org/get\\_data/county\\_report\\_detail.cfm?countyid=36103&profileType=0&Go.x=12&Go.y=21](http://www.nyskwic.org/get_data/county_report_detail.cfm?countyid=36103&profileType=0&Go.x=12&Go.y=21)

### **Kids Count**

For additional resources on poverty in youth populations please visit Kids Count here:

<http://datacenter.kidscount.org>

### **2-1-1 Long Island**

211 Long Island will connect you with a comprehensive data base of social service agencies in Nassau & Suffolk counties. To search for services on-line, go to:

<http://www.211longisland.org/cms>

### **Long Island Index**

The Long Island Index supported by the Rauch Foundation has, from time to time, reports on the state of human services in Nassau/Suffolk Counties. To view their 2008 report on Long Island Infant Health Risk Indicators, you can go to this website.

<http://www.longislandindex.org/explore/170bcc43-8480-4244-94df-ad1e3f59f82a>